THE LIFTING OF GOVERDHANA HILL

* Transcription of the tape made by Mrgaksi dasi, Akhilananda Prabhu, Bhavatarini dasi and others. Narrated by Achutananda Swami.

*Used as a Puppet Show

Long Narration

SCENE ONE (typical preparations for a fire sacrifice; everyone is very busy)

Krsna: Father, what sacrifice are you getting ready for? Who is getting all these offerings? Are you expecting some special reward from doing it? Please explain to Me what this sacrifice is for.

Nanda: O Krsna, You're only a boy of seven years old.This business of demigod worship is too complicated. I don't think You'd understand.

Krsna: Please don't keep secrets from Me, father, what are you and the other cowherd men doing? Father can you tell me more about it? Everyone is working hard to gain something but if they understand their work, and why they are working, they achieve success. People who work in ignorance are ultimately failures. Therefore I should know all about this puja so everything will be successful. Tell me, is it a Vedic sacrifice or just a popular ceremony?

Nanda: All right, all right. I'm not sure You will understand everything but there is no harm in telling You. We are not the only ones who worship Lord Indra. Because he is the lord and master of the rain-giving clouds it is traditional to worship him in order to thank him for sending rainfall. Without rainfall, we cannot farm or produce grains. We would not have any fruits or vegetables and the cows would not have fresh grass to eat. They would not be able to produce any milk. We would not be able to live if there was no rain. Anyone who does not perform this Indra puja out of lust, enmity, fear or greed will never have any good fortune.

Consequently, we should not give up the worship of Lord Indra.

Close Curtains

Long Narration

Nanda: So you see Krsna...

Krsna: (to Himself) Hmmmm. This is not good. One of the reasons that I descended to this world is to make sure that human beings are living under religious principles. It is clear to me now that there is danger that people will become confused, thinking that there are many different gods. I send these demigods forth at the beginning of creation, and they manage the material world for Me but I am seeing how people are mistaking them to be all and all. What is worse, **they** may take **themselves** to be all in all. That Indradeva, although only an officer under my command, is getting a little puffed-up. He is forgetting his Master. It seems that the time has come to teach him a lesson!

Narrator: It was easy to see...

Krsna: Father I don't think that we should perform a sacrifice for Lord Indra.

Several Men: What?!!!

Krsna: It's so temporary. We perform the sacrifice now, Indra is pleased and sends rain. Then we just have to start all over. **Next** year at the beginning of the growing season, we will have to go to so much trouble all over again, making **another** puja for **more** rain! Since there is so much business that has to be done in this life, an intelligent person isn't interested in blessings that simply
come and go. Actually it is by the force of karma that a living entity takes
birth, and dies. It is karma that gives him happiness, distress, fear and fearlessness. Since Lord Indra cannot in any way change our destiny why should we worship him? It is actually karma which controls everyone. Therefore one should seriously worship work itself. Actually that by which we may live nicely is really our worshipable deity.

Cowherd boy #2: But Nandanandana, one has to fulfill his responsibilities!

Krsna: That is true, but all of these gods are just order carriers of the
Supreme God. He is the Super Soul in the heart of men and demigods. Man may forget that everything belongs to God, but the demigods should not. Before they send anybody anything, they have to have the Lord's permission. If they do not have it, they cannot benedict anyone.

Nanda: Well, I can see what You're saying, child, and I'm sure You're quite
right, but, well, I just don't know what to say. We've always done this Indra-puja. We do the sacrifice, Indra sends the rain. It's a good system.

Krsna: Yes, but human life has to have a higher aim. Indra is pouring water on the ocean as well as the land. Rain does not depend on worshipping him. And just see--if you do not worship him, he is powerless to benedict you. He is waiting for his puja, only then can he send rain. If you just do your duties nicely you will get the results of sacrifice, anyway. If one thing is actually sustaining our life, but we take shelter of something else, how can we achieve any real benefit? We would be like an unfaithful woman, who can never achieve any actual benefit by consorting with her paramour.

Gopa #1 : It seems logical...

Gopa #2 The boy has a point, Nandaraja....

Nanda: Hmmm, yes, I suppose it's true.

Krsna: Father, we are Vaisyas. Our duties are in four divisions: farming, commerce, cow protection and money lending. Out of these, we as a community are always engaged in cow protection. Our home is not in the cities or towns or villages. Being forest dwellers, we always live in the forest and on the hills. Therefore we should make a sacrifice to satisfy the local brahmanas of
Vrndavana, the pasturing ground of Govardhana Hill and our wonderful cows.

Upananda: That is a very good idea, Krsna, and since You feel so strongly about it, we'll make a separate sacrifice, later, after the Indra sacrifice.

Krsna: No father! Don't delay! The sacrifice for the brahmanas and Govardhana Hill will take a long time! Better take all the things you have already gotten together for the Indra-puja and use them for the Goverdhana puja.

Nanda: (laughing) Alright my child, we will perform the sacrifice just as You say.

Gopa #1: Just tell us how You want the ceremony done.

Gopa 2: Yes! What do we need?

Krsna: Let's prepare many different kinds of food from sweet rice to vegetable soups. Many kinds of fancy cakes, both baked and fried, should be prepared. And all the available milk products should be taken for this sacrifice. Invite the learned brahmanas who can chant the Vedic hymns and offer oblations to the fire. The brahmanas should be given all kinds of grains. Then the cows should be decorated and given nice grasses. The lower animals such as the dogs, and the lower grades of people, who are considered untouchable, like the chandalas, should also be given sumptuous foodstuffs to eat. Then the sacrifice to Goverdhana may immediately begin. This sacrifice will greatly please Me.

Long Narration--Close curtains, hang up Gov. Hill, open curtains - worship hill ... return home... Indra became furious.

SCENE THREE (end Vrndavan music; begin gloomy music)

Indra comes on up top

Indra: They what!! I don't believe it! How dare they... Just see the impudence of these cowherds of Vrndavan! They are nothing but inhabitants of the forest, but being infatuated with their, Krsna, and thus they have offended the gods! He is nothing but a child but by listening to Krsna they have **enraged me!** consequences!

Long Narration

Indra: Send the Sambartake Cloud!

Servant: My Lord? This cloud is the most powerful! It will flood the entire cosmos! Surely you're needing the services of some less destructive cloud to punish certainly terrorize the residents of Vrndavan!
Indra: I said the Samvartaka Cloud!! The people of Vrndavana have become too puffed up over their comfort and riches, and are too confident in the presence of their tiny friend Krsna. He is simply talkative, childish, and ignorant of
the complete situation, although He is thinking Himself very advanced in knowledge.
Samvartaka! (Responds with loud thunder and lightning) I am ordering you and your companions to go and inundate Vrndavana. Everyone there should be destroyed, along with their cows. What do you mean you are afraid to carry out these orders? You shall go, and I will go too, riding on my elephant, with great storms before, behind and on either side of me. And I

shall use all my strength to punish these Vrajavasis!!

SCENE FOUR (loud sounds of rain and lightning)

Woman's voice: (shouting over the storm) Children, come here- Subala, Paramesvara, take my hands, hurry!

Man's voice: Help! Bring the cows everyone, over here.

Man and woman together: (shouting over wind) Dear Krsna, You are the all powerful and you are very affectionate to your devotees. Now, please protect us from the wrath of Indra.

Krsna: (to Himself) This demigod who thinks himself supreme has shown his great power, but now I shall strike his pride. I will protect my pure devotees of Vrndavan who are completely under My protection.

(Krsna picks up the hill)
Krsna: My dear brothers, my dear father, beloved Brijabasis, you can now safely enter under Gov. Hill hill with your cows. You do not have to fear that this mountain will fall from My hand. Don't be afraid of the wind and rain... just like a great umbrella.

Long Narration

- Krsna gazes at the Gopis
- the Hill shakes
-Balarama smiles
- Krsna becomes bashful

Mother Yasoda: Oh no! Now my little child is in a dangerous position.

Long Narration

-M. yasoda shakes
- Krsna smiles at His mother

Cowherd boy: (Walking up and kneeling near Krsna) My dear friend, You have been standing there for the last seven days and nights without any rest. This is bothering us very much because we are thinking that You are trying to do something that is just too hard for You to do. We don't think You should have to stand alone holding up this heavy mountain anymore. You should transfer it into Sudama's hand. If You are afraid that Sudama can't support he hill, then at least change hands! Transfer the hill to your right hand so that we can give your left hand a massage!

Indra: Great storms! High winds! Turn back. Take your... and turn back!

Krsna: My dear cowherd men, now you can now go back tor homes with your wives, children, cows and valuables. The inundation has ended and the swollen rivers have

returned to normal.

Voices... Let Me help you with it!
- Krsna lowers the hill

Long Narration

SCENE FIVE

Long Narration. Lord Indra enters and humbly approaches Krsna.

Indra: My dear Lord. You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, I offer my respectful obeisances unto You because You are the Supreme Person and the Supreme Soul. Please accept my prostrate obeisances. My dear Lord, I committed a great offense unto Your lotus feet, being falsely proud of my material opulence, not knowing Your unlimited power.

Long Narration

Indra: My Lord...please excuse me, because I am fool number one.

Krsna: My dear Indra, I have stopped your sacrifice just to show My causeless mercy and to revive your memory that I am your eternal master. I am not only your eternal master, but I am the master of all the other demigods as well. You should always remember that all your material opulences are due to My mercy. Everyone should always remember that I am the Supreme Lord. I can show anyone My favor, and I can chastise anyone, because no one is superior to Me. If I find someone overpowered by false pride, in order to show him My causeless mercy, I withdraw all his opulences. Relieved of his false prestige, he becomes ...that is his real riches.

Long Narration...**nicely and joyfully settled.**

The End.